



IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for sharing a document including the steps of:

using a client machine to access a server via a network and to request data therefrom;

verifying a user's authority to submit, access, modify or view said data;

encrypting at least a portion of said data on said server;

communicating said encrypted data from said server to said client; and

decrypting said data on said client.

2. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 1 ~~further including~~ wherein said step of verifying a user's authority further includes the step of verifying a user's identity.

3. (Original) The invention of Claim 2 wherein the step of verifying a user's identity includes the step of authenticating a digital signature.

4. (Original) The invention of Claim 2 wherein the step of verifying a user's identity includes the step of authenticating a private key.

5. (Original) The invention of Claim 2 wherein the step of verifying a user's identity includes the step of authenticating a public key.

6. (Original) The invention of Claim 1 further including the step of customizing data based on a user's access rights.

7. (Original) The invention of Claim 1 further including the step of providing for secure modification of said shared document.

8. (Original) The invention of Claim 1 further including the step of tracking changes in said document.

9. (Original) The invention of Claim 1 further including the step of tracking access of said document.

10. (Original) The invention of Claim 1 further including the step of tracking submission of documents.

11. (Original) The invention of Claim 1 further including the step of viewing said data on said client.

12. (Original) The invention of Claim 1 further including the step of viewing said data on said client via a browser.

13. (Currently Amended) A document management system comprising:
a server for providing data from a ~~stored~~ document stored in a folder;
an agent associated with said folder for regulating access thereto based on a
user's rights;
first means residing on said server for encrypting said data;
means for communicating said encrypted data from said server to a client; and
second means residing on said client for decrypting said data.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The invention of Claim 13 wherein said first means includes a first applet residing on said server.

16. (Original) The invention of Claim 15 wherein said second means includes a second applet residing on said client.

17. (Original) The invention of Claim 16 further including means for transferring said second applet from said server to said client.

18. (Original) The invention of Claim 13 further including means for verifying a user's identity.

19. (Currently Amended) The invention of Claim 13 further including means for customizing said data based on a said user's access rights.

20. (Canceled)

21. (New) A document management method including the steps of:
allowing a user to select a view, edit, submit or access option with respect to a folder containing a document;
checking the user's access rights to said folder; and
providing said document to said user based on said user's access rights.

22. (New) The method of Claim 21 including the step of providing a session key to said user along with said document.

23. (New) The method of Claim 22 including the step of using a user's key to decrypt said session key.

24. (New) The method of Claim 23 wherein said user's key is a public key.

25. (New) The method of Claim 23 wherein said user's key is a private key.

26. (New) The method of Claim 23 wherein said decrypted session key is used to decrypt said document.

27. (New) The method of Claim 22 wherein said session key is generated at random.

28. (New) A document management system comprising:

means for allowing a user to select a view, edit, submit or access option with respect to a folder containing a document;

means for checking the user's access rights to said folder; and

means for providing said document to said user based on said user's access rights.

29. (New) The invention of Claim 28 including means for providing a session key to said user along with said document.

30. (New) The invention of Claim 28 including means for using a user's key to decrypt said session key.

31. (New) The invention of Claim 29 wherein said user's key is a public key.

32. (New) The invention of Claim 29 wherein said user's key is a private key.

33. (New) The invention of Claim 29 including means for using said decrypted session key to decrypt said document.

34. (New) The invention of Claim 29 including means for randomly generating said session key.

35. (New) The invention of Claim 29 wherein said access rights are stored in a database.